

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 566

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to recognize James K. Pruitt for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those estimable citizens who have performed their duties with the utmost probity and whose efforts throughout their years have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, James K. Pruitt is one such distinguished citizen who has served with honor and distinction during his exemplary career in finance and health care; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pruitt will soon be taking a much deserved retirement from his post as Vice President for Finance at East Tennessee Children's Hospital, leaving behind an incomparable record of service that present and future leaders would do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, a Certified Public Accountant, James K. Pruitt received his B.S. degree in Business Administration and his Master's of Business Administration from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, after serving as a graduate assistant in the Accountancy Department at Wright State University, Mr. Pruitt accepted the position of Administrative Director of Fiscal Services at the Maria Joseph Center in Dayton, where he worked from 1976 to 1977; he served as Assistant Director of Finance for The Children's Medical Center, also located in Dayton, from 1977 until 1979; and

WHEREAS, James K. Pruitt conducted various consulting engagements for hospitals and feasibility studies for tax-exempt bond issues as a supervisor for Management Consulting Service at Ernst and Young from 1979 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, a committed academic, Mr. Pruitt also taught various graduate and undergraduate accounting and finance courses as an adjunct associate professor at his alma mater from 1977 until 1989; and

WHEREAS, as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for The Children's Medical Center from 1980 to 1985, James K. Pruitt negotiated an exclusive contract for pediatric services with Blue Cross HMO, developed a preadmission and continued stay review certification system to assist professional staff in obtaining appropriate materials, and automated a registration, clinical laboratory, and medical records index system, along with many other estimable contributions; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Mr. Pruitt became the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of The Children's Medical Center; his exemplary record of accomplishments at the Center is extensive and includes such achievements as his development of an externally oriented multi-year strategic planning process, the implementation of the Q1 Program, the development of a department manager based operating and capital budget system, the planning and execution of a major hospital expansion project, and the recruiting of numerous subspecialty physicians to the hospital; and

WHEREAS, James K. Pruitt joined the staff of East Tennessee Children's Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1992; as Vice President for Finance, Mr. Pruitt has issued fifty million dollars in tax-exempt bonds and oversees operation of all hospital based subspecialty practices; he also oversees a taxable subsidiary that operates fifteen primary care locations in a six county area, negotiates contracts with all hospital based physicians, negotiates TennCare payment rates with managed care organizations, has developed a pediatric physician hospital organization, and has increased hospital operating performance from a 3.7 percent average operating margin in the ten years prior to his arrival to a 5.5 percent average operating margin since his arrival; these are but a few examples that serve to illustrate his exceptional record of service to the Hospital and to the good people of this State; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his profession, Mr. Pruitt is a member of several national and state economic health care organizations, including the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions' Council on Child Health and

Financing and the Financial Management Association; he has also served with distinction as Treasurer of the Children's Hospital Alliance of Tennessee, as a member of the TennCare Task Force for the Tennessee Hospital Association, and as a Diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives, along with serving in various leadership positions in a host of other such laudable associations; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional gentleman is also active in his community and serves as a board member of several non-profit and civic organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Tennessee Valley, Ronald McDonald House, United Way of Knoxville, Boy Scouts of America, and the Junior League Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as Vice President for Finance at East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Mr. Pruitt has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and indeed, all those fortunate to know him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate James K. Pruitt for his many years of laudable service to the good people of this State as Vice President for Finance at East Tennessee Children's Hospital, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.